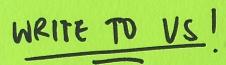




QUESTIONS! COMMENTS? CONCERNS?

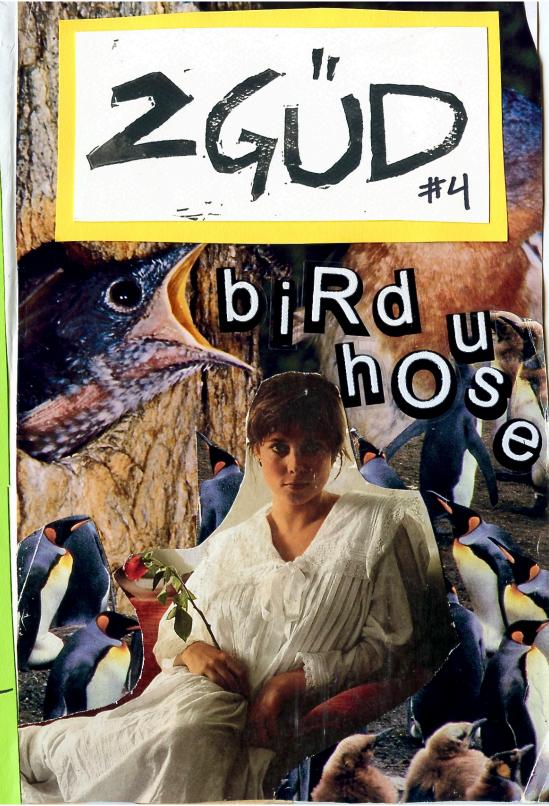


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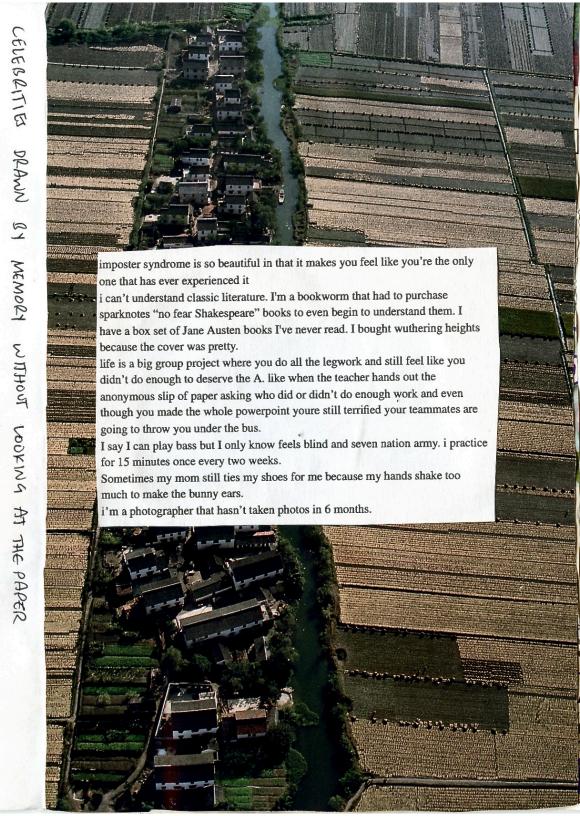


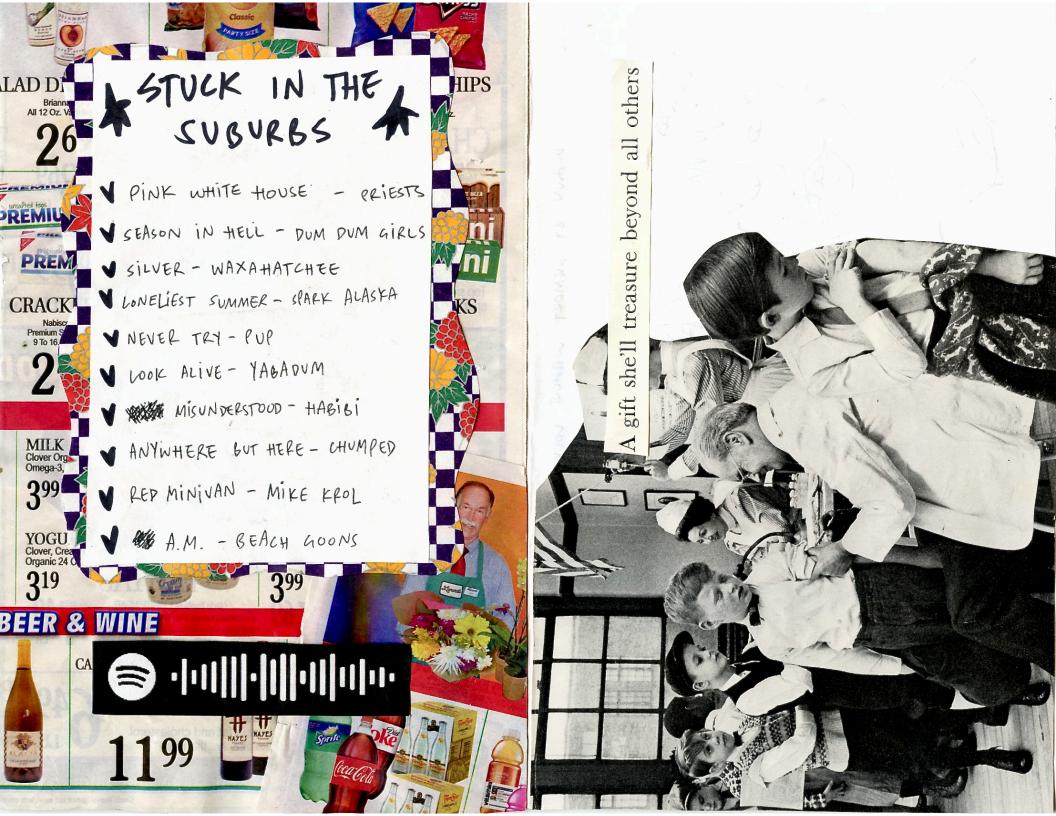
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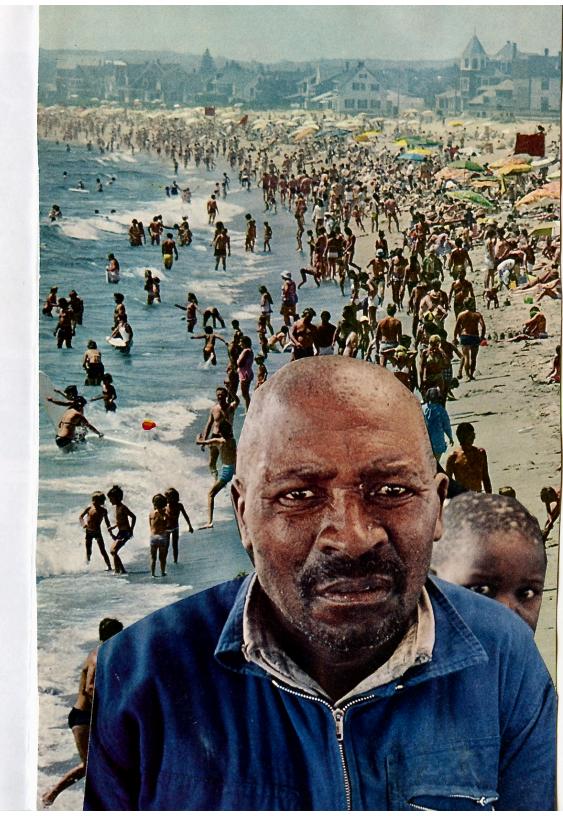
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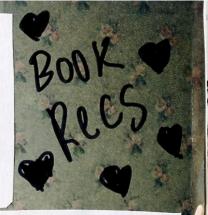
BABY



Very sweet and so juicy.



To Kill a Kingdom by Alexandra Christo is a dark fantasy romance that is a SLIGHT retelling of the Little Mermaid. The imagery is astounding and truly brings the reader into the world of pirates and sirens. The world building is surprisingly well fleshed out for a stand-alone novel and the character development is realistic in the context of the novel. The book includes the classic "I have to kill you but now we're falling in love" trope that provides oh so much tension. Highly recommend it if you enjoy reading fantasy about morally grey characters.



A Court of Mist and Fury by Sarah J Maas (18+) is another fantasy romance from the A Court of Thorns and Roses series. The series is highly polarizing and a topic of heated debate in many booktube/booktok/book twitter communities. In all honesty, the writing is lackluster at best. But, where it lacks in writing it makes up for in complex and likeable characters. I absolutely love the found family in this novel and it immediately became a comfort book. It is character driven so plot people beware as nothing happens in this book besides pining. It's completely worth suffering through the mess that is the first book in the series to get to the actual good stuff.

Know My Name by Chanel Miller (TW Sexual Assault) is a memoir in which Miller recounts her experiences navigating life after her assault on Stanford's campus. Miller was the victim in the highly publicized Brock Turner case and the book provides an inside look at the legal proceedings and how Miller was treated by the public during the two year legal process. Miller discusses her experience with trauma and anxiety intimately and allows the reader to be truly placed in her shoes. An especially interesting aspect of the novel is her discussion on character assasination on the witness stand and how the defense tried to break down every little part of her to prove that she was somehow responsible for the assault. While the book is completely different from the others on this list I feel it is extremely important to recommend. The news story was so heavily publicized from Brock Turner's perspective and how much the ruling would ruin his life when Miller was the one that was dealing with far worse. Miller also covers the systemic things that allowed this to occur. As someone who lives in the county where these court proceedings took place. I was especially affected by this book and I could not recommend it highly enough.







Romance is hands down the most popular genre of literature. But, it has never reached the level of critical acclaim that other books receive. Romance is looked down upon by academics and deemed not worthy of studying but it's understandable because a few authors like Jane Austen slip through the cracks and are given the status of a classic author. But, just why is romance given the short end of the stick? The answer is simple, the primary readership of the romance genre is women. Anything women or teen girls enjoy is immediately looked down upon in popular culture. Romance is viewed as "trashy" due to its high volume and cheesy covers. The popular perception of romance has been pigeon-holed into that of erotica you find in that one aisle in Safeway with long haired, muscular men on the cover leaning into kiss a beautiful woman clad in a tightly fitting gown. Fifty Shades of Grey was treated as the butt of the joke in many literary circles as it was deemed something only horny middle-aged housewives read. I have my own opinions about the series and what it portrays but that's for a later date.

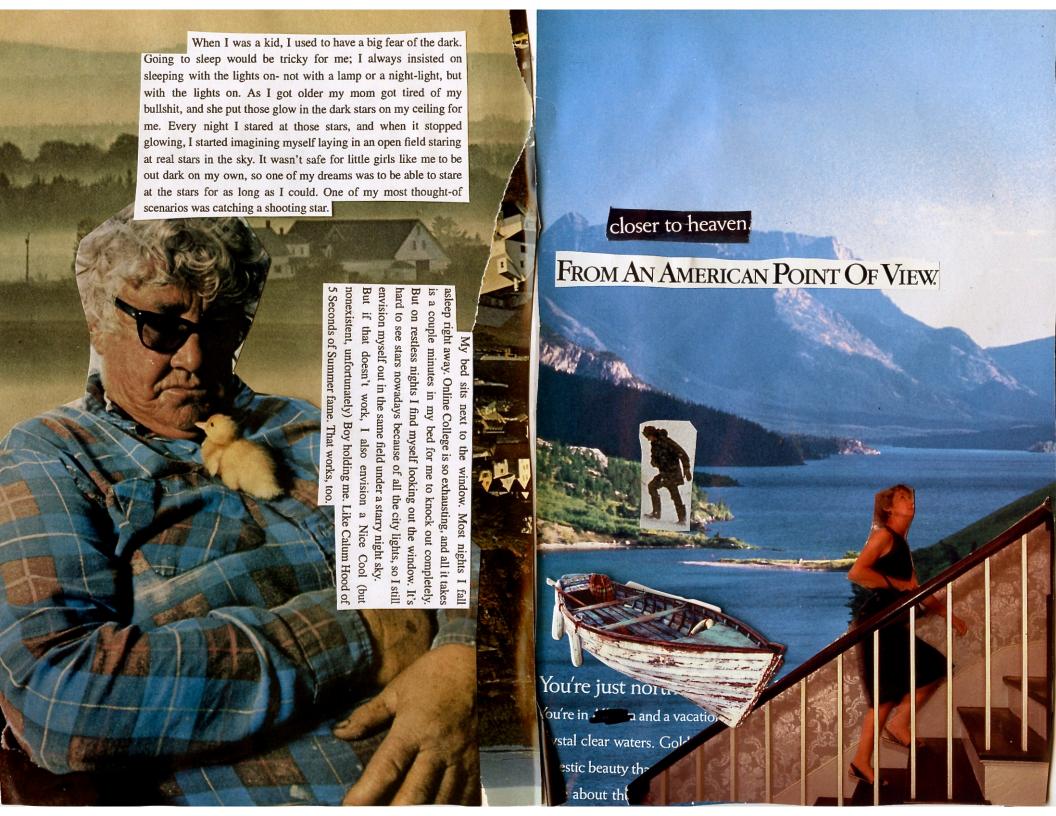
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One of my core memories is showing up to 6th grade with a copy of Twilight and getting relentlessly bullied by the boys in my class, even the ones who also liked to read. I never brought Twilight to school after that and the great sense of pride I felt in loving romance books turned into a deep sense of shame. My own internalized misogyny caused me to shit on other romance readers for the rest of my middle school career and even into high school while I still read those books in secret. I even fell into the habit recently. Last month, my friend Emma (she has an amazing zine called Night Owl go check it out!!) and I decided to buddy read a book called A Court of Thorns and Roses. The goal of this buddy read was to make fun of the book together, but we quickly grew to love the series.

Even now, I'm still terrified to tell people that romance is my favorite genre and I'm deeply embarrassed by some of my favorite books. But, I'm lucky enough to be surrounded by other romance readers that have helped me become more confident in discussing the books that I enjoy reading.







their Sadness grows like weeds



Upon my thighs and knees

Mother of Earth by the bun Club

